

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 14, 16 through 20, 24 through 27, and 31 through 48 are pending, with Claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 18, 25, 33, and 40 being independent. Claims 15, 21 through 23, 28 through 30, and 49 through 63 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 7 9, 12, 16 through 18, 24, 25, 31, 31 through 34, and 41 have been amended, with Claims 18 and 25 having been amended, inter alia, to include the features of cancelled Claims 21 and 28.

Applicants note that the last item on the Form PTO-1449 from the April 25, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement was not initialed; accordingly, Applicants have attached a copy of said form, and respectfully request that the same be initialed and returned to Applicants. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

The title has been amended as required, following the kind suggestion set forth in the Official Action.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, as being indefinite. All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claim in a manner earnestly believed by Applicants to avoid the grounds of rejection, viz, the expression “has already been completed” has been moved adjacent to the expression that it modifies.

Claims 1 through 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,390,003 (Yamaguchi, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, judging means for judging whether judgment has already been completed whether a color image composed of the color image data is a specific image, wherein the image judging means does not perform the judgment if the

judgment by the judging means is being performed. Claim 16 recites, inter alia, judging whether judgment has already been completed or whether a color image composed of the color image data is a specific image, wherein the specific image judging step does not perform the judgment if the judgment by the judgment completion judging step is being performed.

Claims 9 and 17 variously recite, inter alia, controlling formation of the color image according to a result of judgment in the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, and controlling formation of the color image according to a result of judgment by the judging means (Claim 9) or step (Claim 17) if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus not having the forgery judging function.

Claim 18 recites, inter alia, that the first judging means (of the first apparatus) and the second judging means (of the second apparatus) perform judgment of different specific images. Claim 25 recites, inter alia, that the first judgment (relating to data corresponding to a specific image in the first apparatus) and the second judgment (relating to data corresponding to a specific image in the second apparatus) perform judgment of different specific images.

Claim 33 recites, inter alia, that in response to an image signal inputted not being a specific image, the image signal is stored as an image file.

Claim 40 recites, inter alia, judging the image file on specific images, which have not been judged yet, if the judgment has been already performed, and judging the image file on specific images, which can be used for judgment, if no judgment has been performed (in combination with the claimed additional information).

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamaguchi, et al. fails to

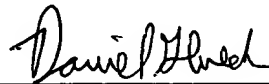
disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 18, 25, 33, and 40. Applicants respectfully note that Yamaguchi, et al. discloses, e.g., (a) that there are a preliminary decision and main decision (e.g., Fig. 7, steps S105/107 and S125/S127), (b) “a bill, a check, valuable securities, a credit voucher or the like as one of predetermined copy-prohibited images registered” , and (c) updated reference pattern (e.g., col. 3, line 54). However, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the foregoing nor the remainder of Yamaguchi, et al. provides either a description or a suggestion of at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 18, 25, 33, and 40. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited document that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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